spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is;

1. A data access method for accessing data in an on-vehicle information device having an on-vehicle memory unit that allows data stored therein to be read out and overwritten by an external apparatus and an on-vehicle control unit that executes a data read and a data overwrite by controlling the on-vehicle memory unit, comprising:

supplying power to the on-vehicle information device from the external apparatus when a power switch at the on-vehicle information device is in an OFF state, and

reading out the data in the on-vehicle memory unit and overwriting the data through control implemented by the external apparatus.

2. A data access method according to claim 1, further comprising:

controlling the on-vehicle memory unit by the on-vehicle control unit until a data read or a data overwrite is started by the external apparatus when the power switch of the on-vehicle information device is in an ON state, and

controlling the on-vehicle memory unit to read out and overwrite the data through control implemented by the

external apparatus once the data read or the data overwrite is started by the external apparatus.

3. A data access method according to claim 1, further comprising:

inhibiting the on-vehicle control unit from controlling the on-vehicle memory unit when the data in the on-vehicle memory unit are read out or rewritten through control implemented by the external apparatus.

4. A data access method according to claim 1, further comprising:

indicating the state of control in which the on-vehicle memory unit is controlled by the external apparatus when data in the on-vehicle memory unit are read out or overwritten through control implemented by the external apparatus.

5. A data access method according to claim 1, wherein:

the information device is connected with the external apparatus via a mounting slot for a portable external storage device.

6. A data access system comprising:

an on-vehicle information device having an on-vehicle memory unit that allows data stored therein to be read and

overwritten from the outside, an on-vehicle control unit that executes a data read out and a data overwrite by controlling the on-vehicle memory unit and an on-vehicle interface unit that executes conversion of a control signal exchanged between the on-vehicle memory unit and the on-vehicle control unit; and

a data access apparatus having an external memory unit having stored therein data to be used to overwrite data in the on-vehicle memory unit, an external control unit that reads out data in the on-vehicle memory unit and overwrites the data in the on-vehicle memory unit with data in the external memory unit by controlling the external memory unit and the on-vehicle memory unit , and an external interface unit that converts a control signal input and output between the external memory unit and the on-vehicle control unit and between the on-vehicle memory unit and the on-vehicle control unit, wherein:

the information device further includes a selector switch that selects the on-vehicle control unit and the on-vehicle interface unit to be connected with the on-vehicle memory unit until the data access apparatus outputs a changeover command and allows the external control unit and the external interface unit to be connected with the on-vehicle memory unit after the changeover command is output.